

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION II

DATE: JAN 09 1997

SUBJECT: Proposed Plans for Sites LF-021 and LF-024, at Plattsburgh Air Force Base,
Plattsburgh, New York

FROM: Richard Caspe, Director
Emergency and Remedial Response Division

TO: Jeanne M. Fox
Regional Administrator

Attached are Proposed Plans, prepared by the Air Force, for Sites LF-021 and LF-024 at the Plattsburgh Air Force Base (PAFB), Plattsburgh, NY Superfund site. Under the National Contingency Plan and Executive Order 12580, the Air Force has been delegated lead agency responsible for CERCLA actions on its facilities and has prepared these Proposed Plans for EPA concurrence. Joint selection by federal agencies and EPA of remedies at federal Superfund sites is required by CERCLA Section 120. Attached is a concurrence letter from EPA to the Air Force for your signature.

The Proposed Plans have been conceptually approved and include changes requested by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). The Plans and supporting documentation have been reviewed in-house by staff from my office and the Office of Regional Counsel.

Site LF-021: From 1956 to 1959, this 5.7 acre landfill was used for the disposal of domestic wastes and sludge from PAFB's industrial wastewater treatment plant. Floc and skimmed residues reportedly were burned in trenches on the landfill before being disposed of and covered with sod. Other wastes also appear to have been burned at the time of landfilling. NYSDEC soil guidelines were exceeded in some surface soil and waste samples (several polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, one pesticide, one PCB, and three metals), and there were marginal exceedances of NYSDEC groundwater standards and guidance values. The calculated human health risks for both soil and groundwater, however, fall just inside EPA's range of acceptable values. None of EPA's maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for groundwater were exceeded. The selected remedy is based on EPA's Presumptive Remedy Guidance for Military Landfills, which calls for Containment.

Site LF-024: From 1980 to 1986, this one acre landfill was used for the disposal of construction and demolition debris. Current and future cancer risks are within acceptable levels. The Hazard Indices for inhalation of fugitive dust by construction workers in the future, and ingestion of groundwater by industrial workers in the future, however, exceed acceptable levels determined by Region II risk assessment staff. The hazard index exceedances were due to high levels of manganese in fill and groundwater samples. Metals contamination at the site is thought to be the result of a combination of high background concentrations at PAFB as well as leaching of metals from the construction debris. Physical hazards are also posed by exposed construction debris. As with site LF-021, the selected remedy is based on EPA's Presumptive Remedy Guidance for Military Landfills, which calls for Containment.

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The Proposed Plans for both sites call for the following actions:

- Twelve inch soil caps;
- Institutional controls consisting of deed restrictions that will ensure protection of the caps and prohibit groundwater withdrawal at these sites; and
- Long term monitoring.

The above actions will be subject to the EPA's 5-year review process. Only contamination at Sites LF-021 and LF-024 are being addressed in these Proposed Plans. Other sites at PAFB have been or will be addressed through separate Records of Decision.

If we can brief you, please contact me at x4391 or Robert Morse, the project manager for this facility at x4331.

Attachments

cc: J. Doyle, ORC